Grandchildren: They Can Really Light Up Your Life
See page 8

CHAPEL HILL NC 27514

Carolina Country

July 1986

COMMENTARY

Doan Frayit 'bout Losin' That Darlin' Li'l Accent

Fuh whatever comfuht it might be, an English p'fessuh at the University of South Carolina has found, after listening carefully for 12 years, that the Southern accent is in good shape, mo' ah less.

Some fear that we impressionable natives, after being exposed to television all these years, would start to sound odd—the women like Barbara Walters or maybe Valley Girls and the menfolk like Johnny Carson or Sylvester Stallone.

There also was concern that the Southern accent was getting a bad name and that everybody was fixin' to shed it.

After all, Jimmy Carter didn't help the reputation of the spoken Southern word, and Sen. Ernest Hollings, (D-S.C.), who speaks Charleston geechee, left a lot of non-Southerners shaking their heads in confusion when he orated in his 1980 presidential campaign.

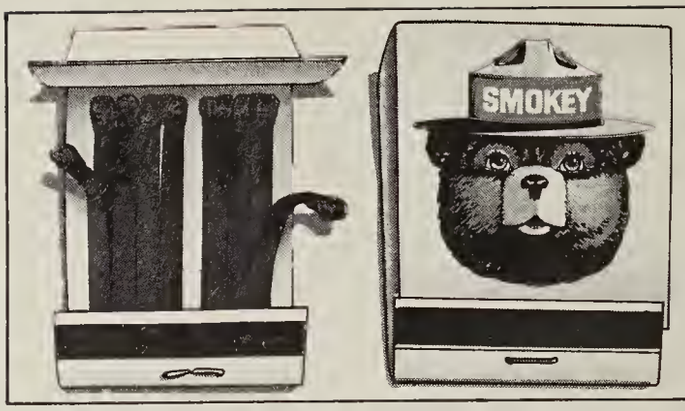
Well, doan frayit, honey.

The p'fessuh found out that Southernese not only is holding its own, but in one particular way is spreading like kudzu.

Newcomers from other parts—Ohio, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and such places—quickly adapt to the region and begin talking just like regular people

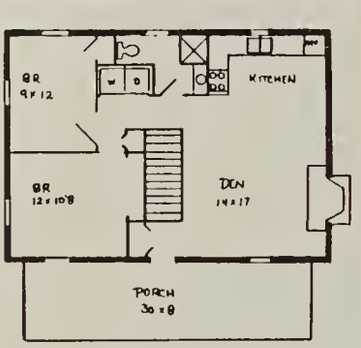
In other words, y'all can relax.

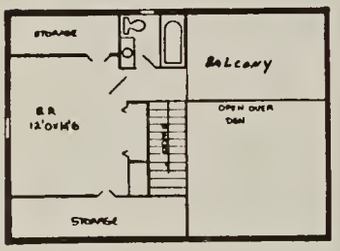
—*Wilmington Morning Star*



Let's close the book on forest fires.

COMPARE





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VIEWPOINT

Our Goal: Unchanged After 40 Years

The following is an updated version of an editorial that appeared in the June, 1976, edition of Carolina Country.

When the first issue of this publication came off the press in June, 1946, it was an independent farm magazine published by a private firm headquartered in Greensboro. Its president and editor, J. E. Nicholson, had launched the venture to provide a journalistic vehicle for the support of agriculture and rural people in North Carolina.

That first issue of *The Carolina Farmer*, which had a circulation of 1,700, was a bit of precursor of the publication it was to become: It carried an article about the use of electricity on the farm, although it had no particular tie to the rural electric program at the time.

The magazine continued to follow developments in rural electrification until January, 1949, when it became the official publication of North Carolina's electric cooperatives while remaining a privately-owned operation. The arrangement was in effect until 1952, when the newly organized association of cooperatives purchased the magazine and formally assumed the role of publisher.

What brought on this lengthy betrothal and eventual marriage of farm journalism and rural electrificaton? It was simply a matter of the magazine needing a cause and the program needing a champion, according to Nicholson.

In a guest column appearing in the 20th Anniversary Issue, the former editor noted that his early work with the state's agricultural leaders made him aware of the problems confronting the rural electric program—most of them stemming from the commercial power companies "who seemed much more interested in blocking the development of the co-ops than in providing electric service to the same areas."

He soon "fell in love with the program" and dedicated the magazine to its cause. The move was welcomed by the co-ops for they were under almost constant attack because of their efforts to extend power lines across the Tar Heel countryside.

They were in dire need of a communications tool linking them with their consumer-members and providing a foil for their attackers' thrusts. The magazine filled this need for the cooperatives—and did so in a distinctive manner which none of them could have matched on an individual basis.

So it remains today, after 40 years.

The publication has experienced tremendous change since those early beginnings: It is operating under its sixth editor; it has a new name; its circulation is now 325,000 and it speaks for a rural electric program now serving about half a million homes and businesses across the state. Yet it continues to provide an important link between the Electric Membership Corporations and their consumer-members, telling a new and far more complex story of rural electrification in the 1980s.

The magazine's mission, then, differs somewhat from that described by Nicholson in the inaugural issue's statement of editorial policy. But the objective he spelled out is as meaningful now for *Carolina Country* as it was four decades ago for *The Carolina Farmer*.

"We realize," the editor wrote, "that if we serve *broadly*, we must be tolerant; if we *succeed*, we must be *untiring*; if we really accomplish good and serve the social and economic needs of rural mankind, we must be *honest* with ourselves and with those we attempt to serve. These things we set forth as the objective—the goal—of this publication ...."

As we begin our 41st year of operation, we reaffirm our faith in these principles and pledge anew our continued allegiance to them.

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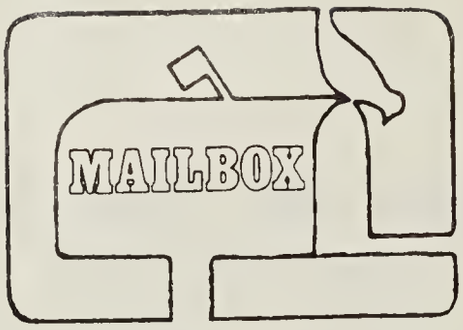


"Delighted" With January Issue

My next door neighbor let me read his January issue of *Carolina Country*. I am delighted with the entire issue and wish to send a subscription to my son in Cullowhee. He lives on a small farm and is interested in many things you print in the magazine.

Juanita W. Smith
Rt. 1, Weirsdale, FL

"Always Enjoy Your Magazine"

When I visit my daughter in North Wilkesboro, I always enjoy your magazine. Being a Tar Heel who was born in Deep Gap, I would like to subscribe to your interesting magazine.

Mrs. F. J. Posternak
Miami, FL

Open Letter: "Much-Needed And Forthright Editorial"

The open letter in your May issue, "Slight-of-Hand Tactics: A Betrayal of Trust," addressed to Mr. Harold Hunter, administrator of REA, by the editor of *Carolina Country* was, in my opinion, a much-needed and forthright editorial.

North Carolina farmers and co-op members are fortunate indeed to have someone like you to speak up fo them.

Paul G. Simmon
Hayesvill

REA: "Burden To Taxpaying Public"

The time has come for the REA t be phased out. It has served its purpos and is now another bureaucracy burde to the taxpaying public.

G. J. Berry
Brevar

"Love Your Magazine!"

Love your magazine! Wish it wa larger and maybe you could put in crossword puzzle and maybe somethin of interest to teens.

Mrs. P. W. Carte
Rt. 14, Lexingto

A word-find puzzle is scheduled appear in the August issu

Children Need To Learn How To Respect Authorities

If we are not allowed to teach th 10 commandments in our publ schools, we need to teach some kin of guide, rules or law, so our childre will know the law.

Some children think because their age and size they are free to do they please—break out windows, dra play guns on law enforcement officials and still go free.

We need to teach our children ho to respect authorities.

Julius Hairst
Lexingt

Let "Chips Fall Where They Might" For Co-ops

I must respond to your editorial the May, 1986, issue of *Carolin Country*. I am currently a user-memb of Randolph Electric Membersh Corporation (Asheboro) as well as t Sumter Electric Co-op in Sumtervil Florida.

In all my years as a co-op user power, I have watched my neighbo who are customers of investor-own utilities get considerably lower ra for electric power than I had. It stan to reason that if you have to buy yo

A "Loophole" For Investor-Owned Utilities

Your statement in the May issue's "A Betrayal of Trust" was stunning to us: "In 1984, 125 U.S. utilities collected from their customers $10.6 billion for federal taxes. But they actually paid the government only $3.5 billion and kept the extra $7.4 billion interest free."

This is incredible. But do utility companies actually collect federal income taxes? This is new to me. Perhaps you refer to a federal corporate tax liability before computation of investment tax credits which millions of taxpayers legally enjoy.

Please call or write me the details. Your statement indicates you have spotted a loophole which could re-establish a vast number of social services that the federal government has cut back.

Walter J. Klein
Charlotte

We didn't mention this practice to suggest that these investor-owned utilities were operating outside federal tax policies. It was used to illustrate how government assistance flows to all elements of the utilities industry. The procedure is covered by the misleading term "tax normalization," but we believe it ought to be called "tax abnormalization." Through this procedure, utilities are allowed to include their income taxes in the rates they charge to their customers as if they did not take advantage of the investment tax credit.

Here's an over-simplified example:

Let's say a utility has a gross income of $1 billion in a given year. For tax purposes, it has available $100 million in investment tax credits that can be used in that same year. Say the company also has accelerated depreciation that's sufficient to wipe out all tax liability for that year except for the $100 million. By using both accelerated depreciation and the investment tax credit, the utility ends up paying no income taxes for that year.

However, through "tax normalization," the utility charges its customers rates that include what the federal income tax would have been had it spread the investment tax credit over the remaining useful life of the plant under construction (usually 30 years) and spread the depreciation over the same period.

Since utilities typically continue to build new plants, it will be many years before the deferred taxes will have to be paid—if they're ever paid. Meanwhile, the utility has the money paid in by its customers under regular rates to use in any way it desires. And it's tax-free.

power and re-sell it that you cannot sell it at the same rate that your supplier can sell it.

There is no question that the co-ops served a very real need at a time when the investor-owned utilities could not afford the cost per mile to serve the rural areas. But that time has passed. The co-ops now find themselves in the same position as the railroads. We simply don't need you any longer .... Isn't it worth a try to let the chips fall where they might and perhaps the investor-owned power companies could utilize most—if not all—of the good folks now working for co-ops. And in so doing we could all save handsomely on the cost of our power.

Sure. You took the risk. You put up the miles of lines now being used. But, you did it all with federal money. My privately-owned utility didn't get a dime of help. I, for one, am willing to see the REA dismantled. Then, if I have a problem I can go to the public utilities commission instead of calling my congressman.

R. E. Weir Sr.
Bushnell, FL

There's no question that many investor-owned electric utilities have been able to provide service at rates that are lower than those of nearby cooperatives. They have the built-in advantage of serving high-density territories which are less costly to serve, and which bring in healthy revenues on a per-mile-of-line basis.

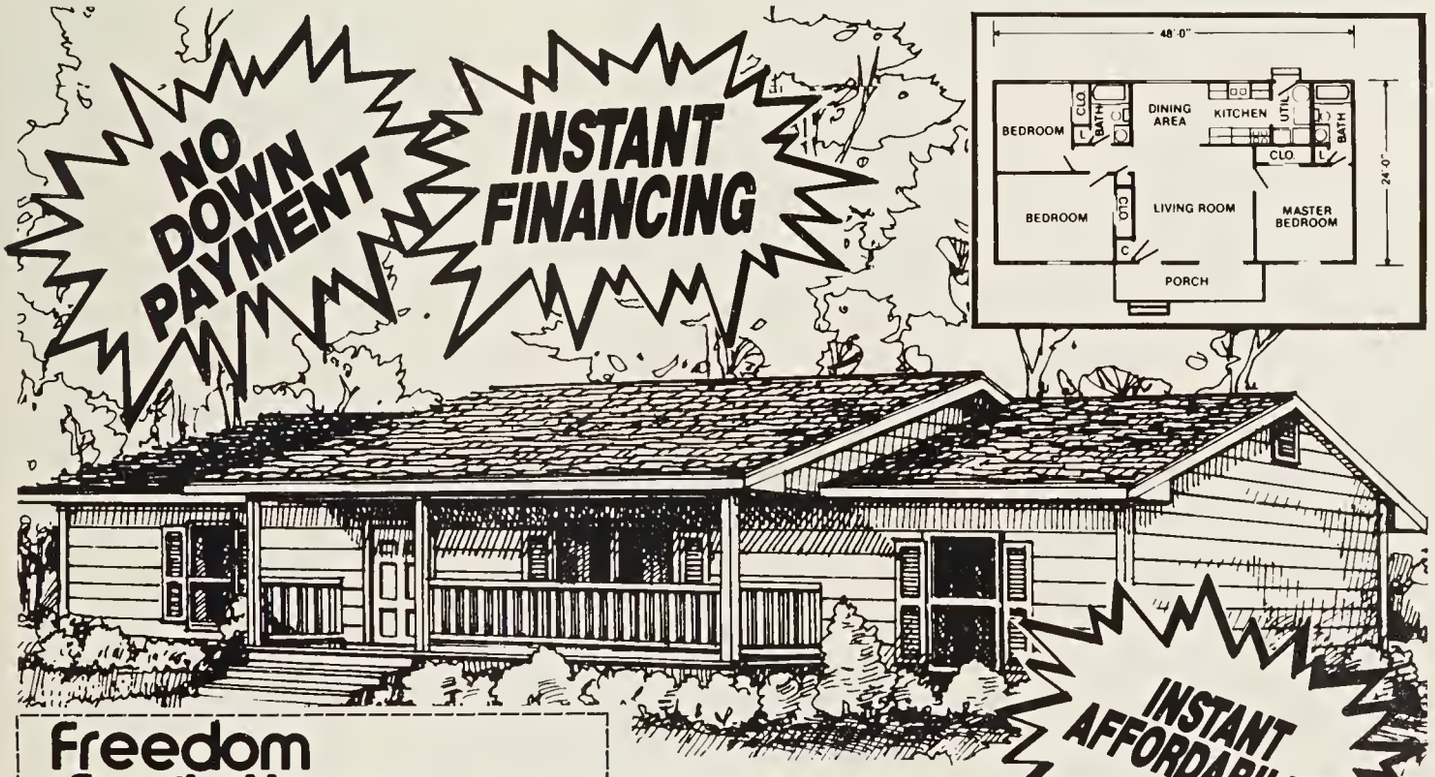
If a co-op's territory were to be absorbed by one of these companies, that utility's cost of operation would go up—which means its rates would also have to go up.

While the nation's co-op's have received federal assistance, the program has not depended solely on that source of financing. Member equity and private financing have also been used in many instances.

If you favor dismantling the REA financing program for the co-ops because of the federal assistance involved, closing REA would by no means eliminate government aid to utilities. It may be true that the investor-owned companies were started without "a dime" of federal help, but they receive such help today in the form of investment tax credits and accelerated depreciation. (See response to Walter Klein's letter, opposite page.) This sort of help amounts to about $38 per meter on a national average. The figure for the co-ops is $8 per meter.

It's true that you could call on the public utilities commission if you have complaints about service from an investor-owned power company. But you certainly don't have to go all the way to Washington if you want a problem solved involving service by one of the co-ops.

As a member-owner of those co-ops, you can report your complaints to the co-op manager, who is employed by a board made up of your fellow consumer-members. If necessary, you can take your concerns directly to that Board of Directors, which is far more accessable to the co-op's members than the public utilities commission.



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"The Lost Colony" To Play Through August

The story of North Carolina's most famous colonists will be told in music and dance throughout the summer in Manteo.

"The Lost Colony," Paul Green's outdoor drama about the English colonists who disappeared from Roanoke Island without a trace, will be presented nightly except Sundays through Aug. 30 at the Waterside Theater. Tickets are $9 for adults and $4 for children under 12. Call (919) 473-3414 for more information.

Sneads Ferry Schedules August 9 Shrimp Festival

A parade, shrimperoo and crafts show will be featured during the 1986 Sneads Ferry Shrimp Festival on Aug. 9.

For more information, write or call Bernice Guthrie, Rt. 1, Box 13, Sneads Ferry, NC 28460. Phone: (919) 327-4911.

National Award Goes To Asheville Family

An Asheville family was one of six families recently honored in a White House ceremony recognizing their civic leadership and strong family values.

Mildred Morris of Asheville was presented one of the Great American Family Awards sponsored by the American Family Society. She has been a single parent to two of her own children and 10 foster children.

The society is a non-profit group dedicated to helping parents build strong families.

Cover: Photo Of July 4 Fayetteville Fireworks

Our cover this month features a photo of fireworks that was shot during a Fourth of July fireworks show in Fayetteville last year. The photo is by Jeff Scott of Fayetteville.

A different kind of "fireworks show" is described in the story, "Grandchildren Can Really Light Up Your Life" on pages 8 and 9.

French Language Camps Scheduled

The North Carolina Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of French is sponsoring a series of French Language Camps at Camp Broadstone in Valle Crucis in August.

The camps will feature instruction in French as well as traditional camp activities, including arts and crafts.

Sessions will be held for grades 9-12 (Aug. 4-8), grades 7-9 (Aug. 9-13) and grades 4-6 (Aug. 14-17). Charges are $105 for three nights and $135 for four nights.

For additional information, write to AATF Summer Camps, Rt. 4, Box 330-A, Statesville, NC 28677. Or call Martha H. Dobson, camp director at (704) 876-0656.

Booklets Offer Information On Fishing In The Piedmont

The North Carolina Wildlife Commission's Division of Boating and Inland Fisheries has published two booklets that offer a wealth of information about fishing in the Piedmont.

They are entitled *City Lake Fishing in the Central Piedmont* and *Stream Fishing in the Central Piedmont*. The booklets were written by Roger Jones of Burlington, a fisheries biologist.

City Lake Fishing in the Central Piedmont profiles the area's many municipal water supply lakes and their fisheries. These lakes offer good fishing for largemouth bass, striped bass hybrids which are stocked by the Wildlife Commission, crappie and bream. Information on access, permits and facilities is included.

Stream Fishing in the Central Piedmont offers information on a fishery that few anglers utilize—the region's large number of warmwater streams. These streams are often undeveloped and offer good fishing for largemouth bass, jack, crappie, bluegills and other sunfishes. Wading and fishing these streams with ultralight tackle and spinners is especially effective. Information on access points is included.

Single copies of these brochures are available free from the Division of Boating and Inland Fisheries, N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, 512 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27611

Deverick Cited For Work With Co-op Organization

Barbara Deverick, administrative manager of Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation, Lenoir, has been cited by the National Cooperative Business Association (NCBA) for her service as the organization's chair for the past two years.

A plaque, which was presented to her recently as she relinquished the post, commended her for her "outstanding leadership for America's cooperative business community, her contributions to cooperatives worldwide and her dedication and loyal service" to the NCBA.

Mrs. Deverick will remain on the executive committee of the organization and will chair its international committee.

The trade association represents various cooperative businesses across the country.

Bath Area Featured In New Guidebook

A guidebook covering attractions in the Bath area is now available from Bath Publishing Company.

The pocket-sized guidebook, the first guide of its kind for the Bath area, was written by veteran writer Carole Marsh of Bath.

Copies of the $4 publication are available in stores and restaurants or may be ordered from the publisher. For more information, call Bob Longmeyer at Bath Publishing Company, (919) 923-4291.

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Publication Outlines Steps For Starting A Cooperative

Steps to forming and financing a new cooperative are detailed in a revised and updated publication issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Cooperative Service.

The publication's authors, Gene Ingalsbe and James Goff, say the responsibility for starting a co-op must rest mostly with the leadership group, who must "demonstrate a combination of leadership, expertise, enthusiasm, practicality, dedication and determination to see the project completed."

Genuine economic need and financial commitment are stressed as the key conditions for successful formation and operation.

A "sequence-of-events" outline lists 16 key steps in the process of getting a co-op into operation.

Discussion includes an explanation of the distinguishing features of a cooperative business. Use of advisers with special expertise is stressed.

As part of the organizing process, the report covers the roles of the leadership group and advisers: conducting sequential producer meetings; steering committee formation and duties; conducting surveys and financial analyses; incorporation and implementing the business plan.

Appendices include samples of a survey questionnaire, steering committee report outline, legal documents outlines, pro forma financial statements and a list of additional helpful references.

For a copy of *How To Start a Cooperative*, Cooperative Information Report 7, write to Agricultural Cooperative Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250.

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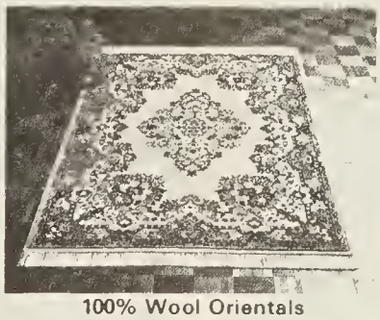

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Grandchildren: They Can Really Light Up Your Life

This story was written by Heyward H. McKinney of Wadesboro, who retired in 1981 as manager of Pee Dee Electric Membership Corporation, Wadesboro, after a 40-year career in the North Carolina rural electric program. He's also a former chairman of the board of the N.C. Rural Electrification Authority.

McKinney's story, "Can Bluebirds Count," appeared in Carolina Country *in March, 1984.*

Grandchildren! They can really light up your life. I can speak with authority about this because I've learned it from first-hand experience.

It all started a couple of years ago when my 14-year-old grandson Walter Gaddy was coming to visit me from his home in Florida. His mother—my daughter, Barbara—drove him up with plans to come back for him in two weeks.

Walter was real helpful. He mowed the lawn, hoed the garden, picked butterbeans (even if most of the beans were grossly immature), picked tomatoes and cut okra and helped with the freezing and canning. All in all, he was a big help with the chores around the house.

I would try to get Walter to use up enough energy so that he would be content to settle down in the late afternoon and evening and just watch television or something. My strategy didn't work. I don't believe 14-year-olds ever run out of energy.

"Hey, Pops," he would say, "when we get the butterbeans picked and shelled and frozen, can we go out to the golf course and play golf? And I'll take my bathing suit and go swimming when we get through and then tonight we can go frog gigging." He never ran out of energy—but "Pops" did.

Anyway, in spite of running me ragged, I really enjoyed Walter's visit. And, too, it gave me a chance to straighten the kid out. Parents don't know how to raise kids. It takes us grandparents: "Why, when I was your age ...."

Finally it was time for Walter to return home. Barbara and granddaughter Kelly came to pick him up. My son, Hal and his wife, Gilda, came up from Greenville in order to see the others. It was sort of a mini-reunion.

Now it had been quite dry that summer. We'd had almost no rain since early May and the straw field in back of my house was as dry as tinder. This is important background, as you'll see later.

On July 4th, Walter decided we should shoot the fireworks he'd loaded up on during a stop in South Carolina.

He had already used up all the small stuff, but he had about six rockets left. These are similar to the ones used at the big fireworks displays. The kind that go way up and then explode into various types of displays.

I looked at one of the rockets and it clearly stated to not fire the rocket except from a pipe or a trough. Well, I didn't have a "pipe" and I didn't have a "trough" and I quickly brought this information to Walter's attention.

"That's okay, Pops," he said, "you don't need that. A bottle is just as good. Listen, I've done this a thousand times. A Pepsi bottle or a Coke bottle is all I need."

I still had some misgivings, but he was so convincing that I provided the Pepsi bottle. Walter propped the bottle up on a brick to get the right angle, lit the fuse and "swoosh"—it went up about a hundred or so feet and exploded with red and white stars that fell a ways and went out. Real pretty.

Walter behaved like a "Barker" at a midway side show. "Now ladies and gentlemen," he said, "the next event will be the green umbrella."

With that he lit the fuse. It started spewing and the bottle rolled off the brick. That rocket took off across the yard about head high, aiming straight at that field of dry grass. Needless to say, it soon got there and when it did, it looked like someone had thrown a match on a pile of rag

soaked in gasoline. It just sort of went "poof" and suddenly there was a grass fire about three feet in diameter.

It had been a long time since I had done any serious running—never was very fast—but I'll bet you I could have made the Olympic dash team if they could have put a clock on me getting to that fire. I was going to stomp it out before it got out of hand.

With 20-20 hindsight, I offer you this bit of advice on trying to stomp out a grass fire. Don't do it while wearing shorts! I ended up with a blister an inch wide that reached from my ankle to my knee.

"Call the fire department," I yelled. There was almost no wind, but that circle of fire was getting larger and larger. And it was a big field.

Then I thought of the hose I had been using to irrigate the garden. Maybe it would reach the fire!

I tore off to the garden, unscrewed the sprinkler and headed back for the fire.

"Turn on the water! Turn on the water!" By golly, I thought, this hose is longer than I thought. I believe it will reach the fire.

By this time I was back at the fire with the end of the hose pointed dead on the fire still yelling, "Turn on the water!"

Finally, Hal hollered back, "I can't turn on the water."

"How come you can't turn on the water?"

"Because the end of the hose is about 50 feet out yonder in the dark."

Hal's method of fighting the fire was to fill every bucket and container he could find with water and throw it on the fire. So he had disconnected the hose from the water tap in order to fill the containers. That's why the hose was reaching the fire. It would have reached to China as long as the end was disconnected.

Well we reconnected the hose to the spigot and found one more piece of hose that we added on. That made it possible to just barely reach the fire. We were able to put out about a fourth of the fire but the rest was burning merrily away.

In the meantime, Barbara had called the fire department.

"Where do you live?"

"Tallahassee, Florida," she replied.

"Where's the fire,?"

"Oh, it's at my daddy's."

"And where does he live?"

"Just a minute. I'll have to look it up."

As many times as she had written me, Barbara had to look up my street address in the telephone book. They worked it out, however, as finally here comes the fire truck—along with about 20 carloads of excitement seekers.

The firemen put the fire out in less than a minute. It had seemed that it had taken an eternity for them to get there, but I know it could not have been more than four or five minutes at the most. The circle of burned grass was less than 30 feet in diameter.

Then came the embarrassing part—answering the questions: "How did it start? What set it on fire?"

When it was all over we were thinking of all the things we could have done but didn't. I had two fire extinguishers in the house. Either of them would have been adequate to extinguish the fire at the beginning.

We could have wet some burlap sheets that I use to cover fruit trees when there is a late frost warning.

I've beaten out many a fire with a pine bough, and while none were readily available, there were plenty of stalks of green corn in the garden. I'm sure we could have beat the fire out with cornstalks.

Sometimes you don't do your best thinking under pressure.

Anyway, we got the fire out with no damage done. Walter was real upset about the whole thing, but I told him to not worry about it. It could have happened to anybody.

But I did insist that those four remaining rockets go back to Tallahassee with them when they left for home next day.

If you have grandchildren, I hope they don't light up your life the way Walter did mine!

—Heyward H. McKinney

VEPCO Rate Hike To Raise Power Costs For Six EMCs

Power costs went up by about $300,000 a year July 6 for the six North Carolina Electric Membership Corporations (EMCs) which buy energy from Virginia Electric and Power Company (VEPCO).

The increase was allowed to take effect by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) after delays had prevented the hike from taking effect in May, as VEPCO had originally proposed.

The FERC suspended the rate increase for one day—the minimum period allowed under its regulations.

However, the federal agency granted the maximum suspension allowed—five months—for a second rate revision proposal that'll cost the EMCs another $1.2 million a year.

That hike, now scheduled to take effect Dec. 5, will boost the co-ops' overall power costs by 5 percent. The two increases together amount to 6.2 percent or $1.5 million a year.

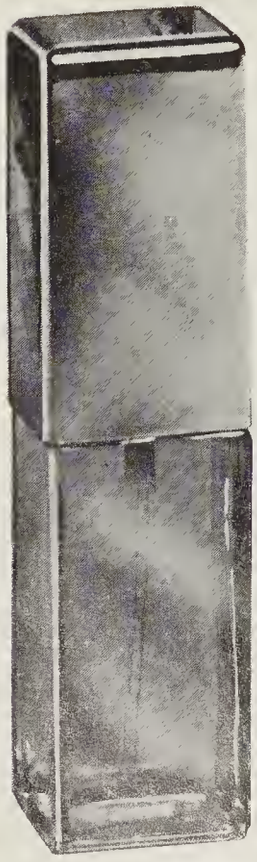
VEPCO had filed with the FERC for both hikes as part of a two-phase proposal calling for the first to become effective May 27 and the second, May 29.

The agency's ruling on the suspension periods was delayed because its staff required VEPCO to revise the proposal's figures covering the cost of construction-work-in-progress (CWIP) on new facilities.

Once the company's revised proposal was re-submitted in an acceptable form, the FERC issued the decision on the suspension periods.

Under FERC procedures, the re quested rates are generally allowed tc take effect after a suspension period Should the agency later rule that th proposed hike is too high, VEPCC would be required to refund th excess charges—plus interest—to th co-ops involved.

Those co-ops are: Albemarle EMC Hertford; Cape Hatteras EMC; Edge combe-Martin County EMC, Tarborc Roanoke EMC, Rich Square; Halifa EMC, Enfield and Tideland EMC Pantego.



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For Co-op Linemen

Signs On Power Poles Can Be Deadly

Power poles look like an ideal place to hang yard sale signs and campaign posters. They're conveniently located and offer high visibility.

But, hanging such signs on these poles could prove deadly for a lineman who must climb them, according to a safety specialist with North Carolina's Electric Membership Corporations.

Anything that is tacked, nailed or stapled to a power pole could cause serious injury or even death for a lineman working on that pole.

Nails, screws and staples, which will remain in the poles long after the signs are gone, snag and tear protective equipment that's used to allow the workman to make repairs without interrupting electrical service.

Punctured rubber gloves are useless for protecting a lineman from a "hot" line.

"When our workers are climbing poles and their climbing hooks hit a nail head or staple, the hook can easily pull out of the pole—causing falls that could injure or kill a lineman," said Fulton Smith, senior safety specialist with the statewide organization of EMCs.

The EMCs find everything on their poles from campaign posters and yard sale signs to fence wire and antennas, he said.

"Any of these things—in fact, anything that's not co-op property—are generally removed as soon as they're discovered as a safety precaution."

Smith cautioned EMC consumer-members who'll be holding yard sales this summer and fall to display their signs somewhere other than on power poles.

"We also hope the people who'll be involved in the political campaigns leading up to the November election will refrain from using these poles for their posters."

He added: "All this may seem perfectly harmless but it could be a matter of life or death for a co-op lineman."

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"Times Past," a signed and numbered print, is from an original painting by Raleigh artist Allen Montague which was commissioned by the N. C. Association of Electric Cooperatives, Inc. It was featured on the *Carolina Country* cover in May, 1985.

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There are two things you need when times are tough: Good neighbors and the RE Member Group Hospital Plan

Like Your Good Friends And Neighbors, This Plan Will Pitch In To Help See You Through A Sickness Or Accident — With Direct-To-You Cash Benefits For Every Day Of Covered Hospital Care

A note from Bob Bergland
NRECA Executive Vice President and General Manager

As a boy growing up on my father's farm, I'll never forget the outpouring of concern and assistance whenever a neighbor was "down on his luck."

Without waiting to be asked, we'd all pitch in and do what we could to help. And we knew that if our family were ever in need, our neighbors would do the same for us.

This same spirit of "neighbor helping neighbor" is what the RE Member Group Hospital Plan is all about. It's you and your NRECA joining together for help with today's terribly high cost of hospital care.

The American Hospital Association reports the average cost of a hospital stay is well over $2,400.00. Your regular health insurance will pay some of this. But even so, you could still leave the hospital owing hundreds if not thousands of dollars.

That's why the RE Member Group Hospital Plan is so important. When you or any insured member of your family is hospitalized, this plan will "pitch in" to help pay the costs your other insurance doesn't cover. And because of the participation of you and other RE members like you, this protection is available at low, group rates.

I truly believe this RE Member plan is one of the best insurance values in America today. And that's why I urge you to give it your very serious consideration.

Sincerely,

Bob Bergland

The RE Member Group Hospital Plan Pays You

Cash Benefits For Any Covered Sickness Or Accident

$1,500.00 a Month
$350.00 a Week
$50.00 a Day

You will be paid these cash benefits from the very first day you or any insured member of your family is hospitalized for any reason.

50% Increased Benefits For Cancer And Heart Attacks

$2,250.00 a Month
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$75.00 a Day

Your benefits will increase 50% when you or any insured member of your family is hospitalized for a heart attack (acute myocardial infarction) or cancer, including leukemia and Hodgkin's disease.

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$200.00 a Day

You will receive DOUBLE BENEFITS when you and your insured spouse are both hospitalized at the same time for injuries—even if they occur in separate accidents.

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You'll collect cash benefits on the first day and every day you're hospitalized. There's no limit to the number of days you can collect benefits or the amount of benefits you can receive.

■ **Pays In Addition To Any Insurance.**
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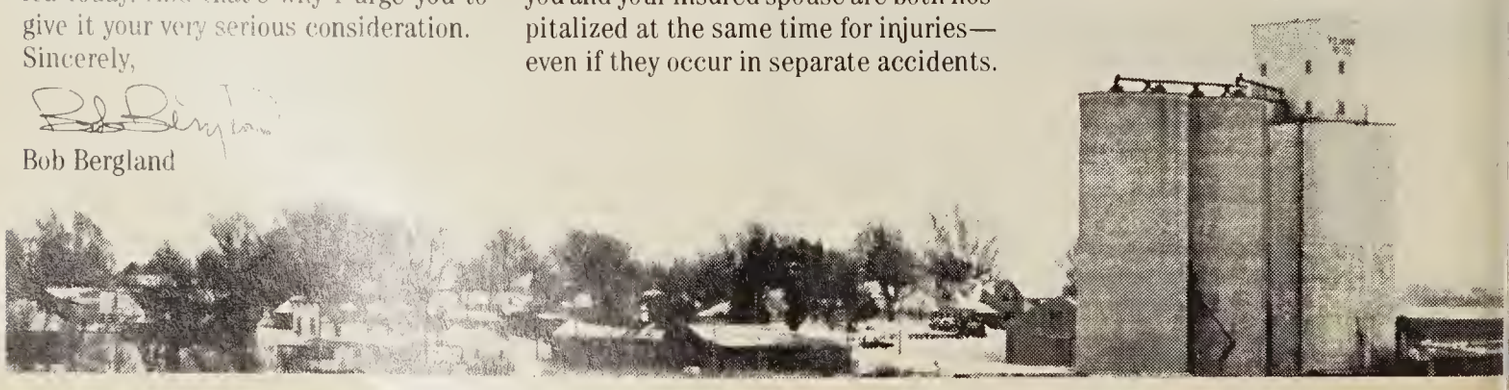
■ **Pays Benefits Direct To You.**
Or to anyone you choose. The money is yours to spend as you wish.

■ **Limitations.**
For confinement due to mental illness, half benefits are paid for up to 30 days. And health problems that were evident or treated before your insurance begins are not covered for the first year, but are fully covered thereafter.

■ **You're Covered In Any Hospital.**
Anywhere in the world. Of course nursing homes or convalescent, extended-care or self-care units of hospitals do not qualify.



■ **Your Protection Can't Be Cancelled Or Your Rate Increased Individually.** The only way your rate can ever change is if the identical change is made for all RE members insured under this group plan.

■ **Money-Back Guarantee.** If you are not satisfied with this plan (C400 Series) for any reason, simply return your certificate within 30 days for a full and prompt refund.

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Up To $10,000.00 Accidental Death And Dismemberment Protection

This valuable accident protection is provided to RE members at no extra cost. It pays you the following cash benefits for any covered accident that occurs after your coverage is in force.

For loss of life, two limbs or both eyes

For You	For Your Spouse	For Each Child
$10,000	$10,000	$2,000

For loss of one limb or eye

For You	For Your Spouse	For Each Child
$5,000	$5,000	$1,000

Your Certificate Will Arrive In This Handsome Document Holder

It's yours to keep even if you decide not to continue your protection.

Mail your guaranteed acceptance form right away — no salesman will call

Choose The Plan And Benefit Option That's Right For You

With these plans you can insure family members at a greater savings than buying separate policies.

Individual Plan
Ideal for the single person . . . or for individual family members.

Husband-Wife Plan
Designed for the married couple without children, or whose children are grown. Pays full benefits for both of you.

All-Family Plan
Offers protection for the whole family—father, mother and all eligible children. Pays full benefits for all.

One-Parent Family Plan
Created for the special needs of the single parent. Covers you and all your eligible children with full benefits for all.

Your First Month's Premium Is Only $1.00! Then Continue At The Low Group Rates Shown Below:

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	MONTHLY PREMIUM (use age of principal insured)	
	Under 60	60 & Over
Individual Plan	$15.35	$23.35
Husband-Wife Plan	29.75	45.75
All-Family Plan	34.95	50.95
One-Parent Family Plan	20.55	28.55

B $900.00 a month $30.00 a day

	MONTHLY PREMIUM (use age of principal insured)	
	Under 60	60 & Over
Individual Plan	$ 9.95	$14.95
Husband-Wife Plan	18.75	28.75
All-Family Plan	21.95	31.95
One-Parent Family Plan	13.15	18.15

NOTE: Your renewal rate does not increase and your benefits do not decrease as you move from one age group to another.

SAVE OVER 8%. When your certificate arrives, you'll be given the opportunity to save over 8% by paying your premiums once a year instead of every month. That's like getting one month of protection FREE!

Questions? Call your NRECA Service Representative Toll Free 1-800-235-7732 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Central Time, Monday through Friday.

Enroll today! Complete your guaranteed acceptance form and mail with $1.00 to: Physicians Mutual Insurance Company, 42nd & Dodge Street, P.O. Box 3313, Omaha, Nebraska 68172.

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MEMBER GROUP HOSPITAL PLAN—GUARANTEED ACCEPTANCE FORM (Please Print)

NAME _____ (First) (Middle Initial) (Last)

ADDRESS _____ (Street) (Apt. No.) (City) (State) (Zip)

PHONE NO. ( ) _____ (for customer service only) **SEX** (check one) Male ☐ Female ☐

DATE OF BIRTH _____ (Month Day Year) **AGE** _____

Choose the Plan You Want (check one)

☐ Individual Plan 4 ☐ All-Family Plan 1

☐ Husband-Wife Plan 3 ☐ One-Parent Plan 2

Select Option You Prefer (check one)

☐ OPTION A—Pays $50 a day from very first day for sickness or accident 35859-404

☐ OPTION B—Pays $30 a day from very first day for sickness or accident. 35859-403

Information About Your Spouse
(complete if you choose the Husband-Wife or All-Family Plan)

NAME _____ (First) (Middle Initial)

DATE of BIRTH _____ (Month Day Year) **SEX** _____

I enclose my first month's premium of $1.00. I understand the certificate is not in force until issued and benefits will not be paid for old health problems unless confinement begins more than one year after the issue date.

SIGNATURE X _____ (Insured's Signature SIGN—DO NOT PRINT) **DATE** _____

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Half Sizes 12½, 14½, 16½, 18½, 20½, and 22½.
Pattern No. 9327 is cut in Women's Sizes 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48 and 50.
Pattern No. 4014 is cut in Half Sizes 12½, 14½, 16½, 18½, 20½, 22½, and 24½.
Pattern No. 7355 includes directions to crochet Misses Sizes 10-16 vest.
Pattern No. 977 includes directions for filet crochet dresser scarf.
Pattern No. 547 includes transfers and directions for rose quilt.
Pattern No. 745 includes directions for simple huck towels.

Send $3.25 for each pattern to: *Carolina Country*, Reader Mail, Dept. 8681. Box 58, Woodside, New York, 11377. Add 75¢ each for postage and handling. Be sure to use your full address, zip code and include pattern number and size.

COUNTRY KITCHEN

Want To Share Your Recipes?

If you would like to share a recipe with this column, send it to: *Carolina Country*, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611.

We pay $5 for published recipes and present each monthly winner a set of 50 recipe cards featuring a reprint of the published recipe.

Mock Lobster Salad

Submitted by Donna M. Rubio of Mt. Gilead

60 saltine crackers
1½ cups celery, finely chopped
1 small green pepper, chopped
3 eggs, boiled and smashed
1 small onion, diced
1½ cups tomato juice
1½ cups mayonnaise

Break crackers into small pieces. Add all remaining ingredients and mix together. Refrigerate overnight in glass container. Serve with saltines. Makes 1½-2 quarts.

DO YOUR OWN THING

Quality Quilted Hoops

Beginning and seasoned quilters will enjoy making these colorful quilt hoop wall hangings. Pictured is the Dresden Plate made of loosely woven muslin, thin quilt batting, five assorted fabrics and set on a 14″ wooden quilting hoop.

Our 24-page guidebook offers 17 designs made from seven basic patterns. Some of the other fascinating quilt hoop designs include the Mariner's Compass, featuring an intricate star pattern; the Love Ring, which is made in a series of circles and Love in Bloom, which shows you how to superimpose cloth flowers over a pink heart.

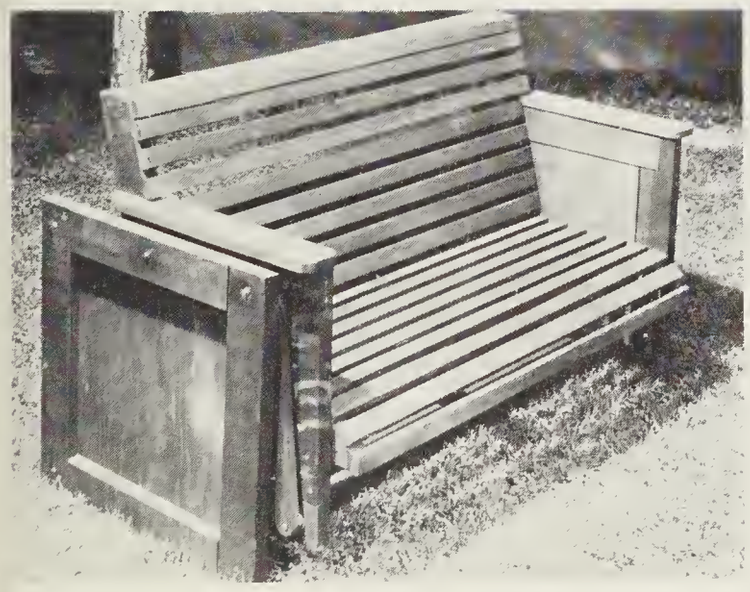
As in other quilting techniques, scraps or remnants work just as well as store-bought material, so making them shouldn't be very expensive. Once you learn this particular technique, you can make numerous variations.

The guidebook also contains step-by-step instructions, traceable patterns, full-color photographs of the finished hoops and complete materials lists.

To obtain **Quilt Hoops**, #G464, send $6.25, including postage and prompt handling.

Send your check c/o *Carolina Country*, P.O. Box 2383, Van Nuys, CA 91409-2383.

U-BUILD PROJECTS



A Little R & R

Nothing helps relieve tension and stress after a long day like the gentle back-and-forth motion our patio glider offers. Glider swings have long been a part of the American "relaxation" scene. Just one sitting will take you back to the carefree days of big front porches and band concerts in the park.

Measuring 51″ long and built to last, this version is made from Douglas Fir and plywood. However, you can easily substitute redwood for the fir and give it a more rustic look.

A detailed step-by-step plan features more than a dozen photos, along with drawings, instructions and handy finishing tips. The gliding assembly is simple and will give you years of trouble-free operation.

To obtain **Patio Glider**, Pattern #641, please send $3.95. Also available is our #C23, **Lawn & Garden Packet**, which contains eight projects ranging from lounge chairs to a Dutch windmill (but *not* #641 for $7.25). Prices include postage and prompt handling.

Our **Patterns For Better Living** catalog, picturing over 700 woodworking and handicraft projects, is $2.95. Send check or money order to Steve Ellingson, c/o *Carolina Country*, P.O. Box 2383, Van Nuys, CA 91409-2383.

WASHINGTON SCENE

Senators Dressing For TV Success While Girding For Key Election Battles

The United States Senate has been called the world's "greatest deliberative body."

Whether that's true or not, that body recently underwent a major change that prompted nearly everyone of its "deliberators" to show up one day wearing a dark suit, blue shirt and red tie.

The reason: for the first time in history, television cameras were allowed inside the Senate chamber to record the proceedings.

The people who know about such things told the senators that this style of dress would look better on TV. Suddenly, there were about 100 look-alikes around the capitol.

But the move to televise the Senate sessions—something the House of Representatives has been doing for the past eight years—was indeed an historic event.

From now on, students of history will be able to see and hear—as well as read—the debates on critical issues before Congress. The perspective this will provide could give the historians a better understanding of the passions and strategies that go into decisions affecting the lives of millions of Americans.

The move to televise the Senate in action didn't come easily.

Some members, led by Sen. Russell Long (D-La), were afraid that the TV cameras would lead some members to make long speeches to impress the folks back in their own states with their importance in the capital's scheme of things.

They pointed out that in the early days of the republic, the Senate didn't even allow spectators to watch their sessions. It wasn't until late in the last century that galleries were built in the Senate chamber.

But proponents of televised sessions argued that the voters have a right to know what the people representing them in Washington are doing.

Sen. Robert Byrd (D-WV) said the Senate was becoming the "invisible chamber," since the House was routinely on TV across the nation.

Finally, the proponents prevailed.

One channel, C-Span, plans to carry all proceedings but it is a certainty that when extremely vital issues arise, other networks will also broadcast the Senate debates.

The start of televised sessions comes just six months before one of the most critical Senate elections of recent years, with the two major parties battling in 34 states. What's at stake is control of the upper body during the final two years of the Reagan administration.

Republicans now have a majority, but a narrow one: 53-47. But there are 34 seats that will be decided in November as the nation goes about the business of selecting one-third of the Senate's 100 members every two years.

The GOP will be fighting to keep its control and to widen its margin and the party will have a large campaign fund to finance the effort.

The Democrats—as usual, operating with less money than the Republicans—believe the odds are on their side because 22 Republicans must face the voters this year compared to 12 Democrats.

Needing a shift of only four votes to gain a majority, the Donkey party forces have targeted several GOP standard bearers for special attention in this election.

Seven members of the Senate are retiring this year and will not seek re-election. They include three Democrats: Russell Long of Louisiana, Gary Hart of Colorado and Thomas Eagleton of Missouri. The remaining four are Republicans: Barry Goldwater of Arizona, Paul Laxalt of Nevada, Charles Mathias of Maryland and North Carolina's John East.

One reason for the greater number of Republicans is the large number who were elected as freshmen in 1980, when Ronald Reagan won his sweeping first-term victory. They are now ending their six-year terms and are seeking another six years.

Reagan isn't on the ballot this year but they can count on his help during the campaign. He has already made one whirlwind trip to North Carolina, where he raised $650,000 for Rep. James Broyhill, the Republican nominee to fill the seat that will be left vacant when Sen. East retires for health reasons.

The President will campaign in other states for GOP nominees and will be a powerful weapon, given his popularity at the polls. It's a good bet

that he'll be back to North Carolina before November.

It's also certain that Reagan will campaign in Western states, where Republican hopes are high and where they will be going all-out to protect gains they made in the 1980 elections.

Both sides agree that some members among the 34 will be returned no matter what happens. They include Republicans Robert Dole of Kansas and Charles Grassley of Iowa as well as Democrats Wendell Ford of Kentucky and Dale Bumpers of Arkansas.

But there are many in the group who are considered vulnerable. In their states, the opposition party will provide money and expert advice to help plan strategy and prepare political advertising.

Of the seven members who are retiring, the Democrats think they are certain to capture one seat now held by a Republican. That is in Maryland, where Charles Mathias has been elected since 1968 in a heavily Democratic state.

The Democrats also believe they have a good chance in Nevada, where Paul Laxalt—the president's best friend in the Senate—is retiring, perhaps to seek the Presidency. The GOP candidate is a former Democrat who has been a Washington lobbyist and the Democratic nominee is presently in the House.

Republican hopes are high in Missouri, Eagleton's state, where a woman lieutenant governor is pitted against a popular GOP governor. They also hope to win the Louisiana seat that Russell Long is vacating.

GOP strategists believe that if they can pick up four of the seven that are being vacated, then the Democrats will need to pick up five of the remaining seats now held by Republicans in order to gain a one-vote majority.

Also, Republicans believe that the veteran Alan Cranston, the liberal Democrat from California who is trying for a fourth term, is vulnerable this year. As a result, they will support to the hilt the campaign of Rep. V. W. Zschau (rhymes with the first syllable of shower), the GOP nominee.

Cranston says he has raised $5 million and plans to double that amount.

Sen. George Mitchell (D-ME), chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, listed the following states which he thinks have vulnerable Republican Senators:

- Florida—Polls show Sen. Paula Hawkins well behind Gov. Robert Graham. Hawkins voted to cut back Social Security cost of living increases and the state is full of retirees. Graham has been a very successful governor.
- Alabama—Sen. Jeremiah Denton, one of the most conservative Republicans, is facing a conservative Democrat, Rep. Richard Shelby. Mitchell sees a close race but says Denton is vulnerable.
- Idaho—A popular Democratic governor, John Evans, is challenging GOP freshman Steve Symms, who upset the late Sen. Frank Church in 1980 during the Reagan landslide. Evans is favored.
- South Dakota—Sen. James Abdnor is a definite underdog to Rep. Tom Daschle. Democrats have benefitted from a hot Republican primary between Abdnor and Gov. Danklow, which Abdnor narrowly won.

Mitchell says he believes Democratic chances are better than good in Alaska, Georgia, Nevada, New York and North Carolina.

Incidentally, both camps see North Carolina as "very even" at this stage between Rep. Broyhill and Democrat Terry Sanford, former governor and ex-president of Duke University.

Just how important is the November election?

Most political analysts see it as extremely so, because it may well set the agenda for the last two years of the present administration.

The Republicans know they have no chance of capturing the House and if they lose the Senate it will be the Democrats who will control the flow of legislation on Capitol Hill for Reagan's last hurrah.

There are 68 candidates across the land who're vying for a role in controlling that flow.

Next January, 34 of them will have a chance to do so "live from the U.S. Senate"—assuming they have enough dark suits, blue shirts and red ties.

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EMC ANNUAL MEETINGS CALENDAR

Date	Electric Membership Corporation	Time	Location
July			
18	Randolph, Asheboro	Registration: 6:30 p.m. Business Meeting: 8:00 p.m.	Lee J. Stone Stadium, Asheboro
Aug.			
21	Pee Dee, Wadesboro	Registration: 7:00 p.m. Business Meeting: 8:00 p.m.	Richmond Senior High School, Rockingham
23	Roanoke, Rich Square	Registration: 11:00 a.m. Business Meeting: 1:00 p.m.	Arena at Co-op Headquarters, Rich Square
	Haywood, Waynesville	Registration: 8:30-10:00 a.m. Business Meeting: 10:30 a.m.	Entrance to Ghost Town (foot of the mountain) Razzie Bailey Music Hall, Ghost Town

MISSING

Cherrie Ann Mahan

Date Missing: 2/22/85
From: Pittsburgh, PA
Date of Birth: 8/14/76
White Female
Eyes: Hazel
Height: 4'2"
Weight: 68
Hair: Brown

Tyler Tridico

Date Missing: 10/5/84
From: Huntsville, TX
Date of Birth: 12/19/68
White Male
Eyes: Hazel
Height: 5'9"
Weight: 130
Hair: Brown

If you can identify these children call The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children:
1-800-843-5678

This message is brought to you by the National Child Watch Campaign™ a cooperative effort between the National Child Safety Council, The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the American Gas Association.

National Child Safety Council is a non-profit organization supported solely by private contributions. The Council assists law enforcement agencies in the effort to combat the national tragedy of missing children in every state in the continental United States. If you would like to assist their efforts to help locate other missing children, please send your tax-deductible contribution to: MISSING CHILDREN SEARCH, National Child Safety Council™, P.O. Box 1368, Jackson, Michigan 49204.

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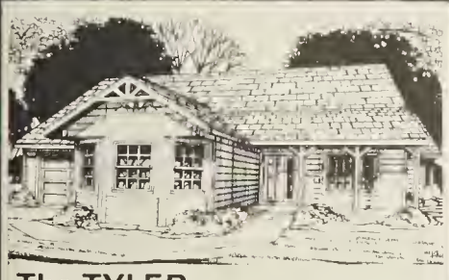

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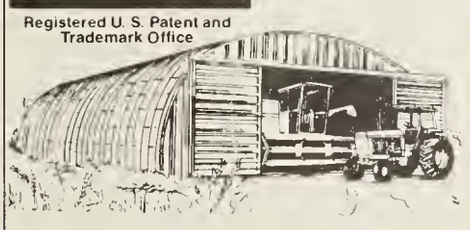

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HANK'S GARDENING GUIDE

Summer's heat is with us. This brings a slackening of gardening activities; but we need to be getting a headstart on preparing the garden for fall. Work in a complete fertilizer and organic matter.

Many ornamental trees and shrubs will grow at amazing rates if supplied with adequate water during hot weather.

Pinch Mums

Chrysanthemums have a tendency to produce long spindly stems if the growing tips are not pinched off. Removing these growing tips will cause side shoots to form. This makes for stockier and more compact plants. Also, pinching causes plants to produce a larger number of blooms.

Be sure to cease pinching at least seven weeks before their normal blooming date. This date will vary a bit depending on the variety. If some of your plants flower late in the fall, you'll want to make a garden note to do the pinching a bit earlier next summer.

In order to increase your mum population, use the removed growing tips as cuttings. Clip them just below a leaf joint. Treat with a root-inducing hormone. Plunge the cuttings in a mixture of one-half garden soil, one-half clean sand. Keep moist. In a few weeks, you will have well-rooted cuttings.

Prepare For Fall Vegetables

If you're planning to have a fall vegetable garden, prepare now. Start cool-season vegetables in pots or shallow wood boxes.

Some vegetables that are easily transplanted are cabbage, kale, spinach and mustard. Get them started now so they will be well established by planting time.

Before setting out cool-season vegetables, you'll want to restore the nutrient supply to the garden soil. Add compost, old manure and five to ten pounds of a complete fertilizer for each 1,000 square feet of vegetable-growing space. Mix these well into the soil.

Plant Perennials Now

Plant seed of the following perennials now in order to produce vigorous plants for next spring: snow-in-summer, hollyhock, delphinium, daisies, pyrethrum, Stoke's aster and flax.

Rose Cuttings

Make cuttings of roses this month to root for increasing your number of plants.

Make cuttings six to nine inches long, using a sharp knife. Remove all but the top three leaves. Insert all but

Watering Priorities

As water becomes scarce, it's important to use it on those plants that demand moisture to survive—some plants will "hold it all together" for long periods without water.

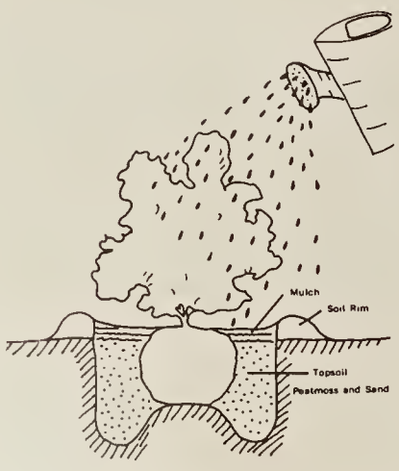
At the top of your watering priority list are shallow-rooted plants such as camellias, azaleas, dogwoods and ferns. Soil in which these grow should not be allowed to dry out even once. The hydrangea is first to show signs of water stress. Hydrangeas wilt rapidly in the summer heat if they are in need of moisture around the roots.

Among plants with moderate water requirements are pyracantha, Chinese holly, nandina and junipers.

Plants that will go the longest periods without moisture around their roots are such drought-tolerant ones as pampas grass, yucca, vitex, lantana and oleander.

A lack of adequate moisture at this time can greatly reduce the number of flower buds and blooms for next season's display on camellias.

When watering flowers, shrubs and lawns, remember to give them a thorough soaking. Frequent sprinklings can do more harm than good. You want to encourage the growth of a deep root system.



Be sure to apply enough water so moisture will move downward to the root system. It is helpful to make a 3-4 inch mound of soil about 18-24 inches outward from shrubs. Let water flood inside the mound and soak downward to roots.

If you use overhead irrigation of roses, apply water at some time other than late afternoon. Moisture on leaves overnight can encourage disease growth, especially black spot.

the top two or three inches into well-prepared soil. Place in a spot with indirect light.

Water well and firm soil around each cutting. Cover each cutting with an inverted glass jar to keep the humidity high. Water as needed to keep soil moist.

Next spring, gradually remove the jar—increasing the time the cuttings are uncovered by about an hour a day. After about two weeks, transplant the roses to their permanent location.

Thin Iris

Bearded iris plantings that have become crowded may be dug, divided and replanted now. Cut away any rotted portions of rhizomes; coat the ends with sulphur.

Let the rhizomes dry for a few days before replanting. Iris beds can be made neater by cutting away the browned side leaves of each fan. There is no need for shearing across the tops except when plants are moved.

Dis-Bud Dahlias

For larger dahlia blooms, remove all but one flower bud in each cluster. Flowers should be fully open when cut. They do not open as cut flowers in water.

Increase Flower-Power

As blooms fade on vitex, buddleia and crepe myrtle, clip them from plants. Fertilize with complete fertilizer and keep plants watered in the event of extended dry periods. They will continue to flower until frost.

Lawn Mowing

If you haven't already done so, set your mower so it will mow higher during the driest part of the summer.

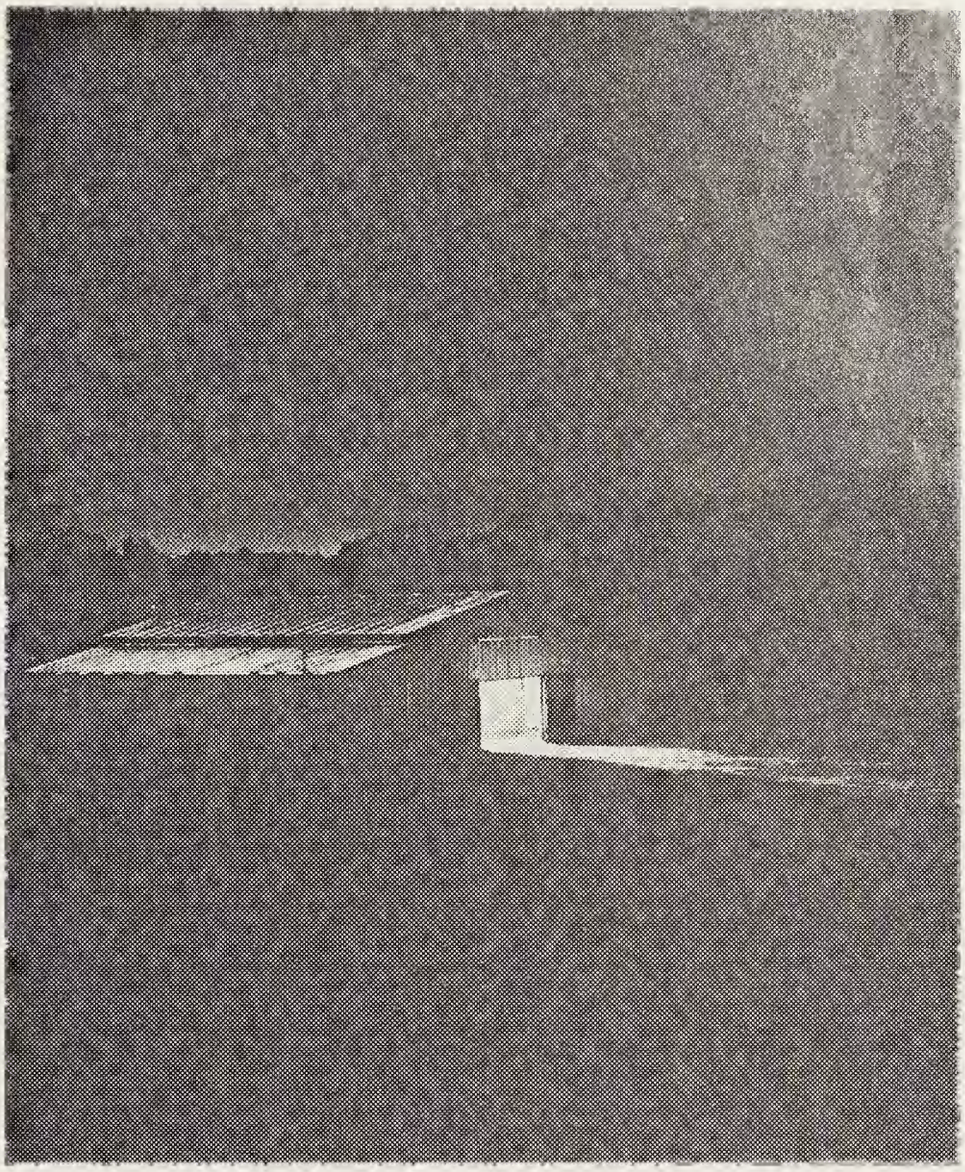
The higher grass blades will help to keep the roots shaded and cool.

Instant Color

For needed color in your garden, you can still set out summer annuals such as marigolds, zinnias, petunias and celosia. By buying plants already blooming in pots, you can get immediate impact.

Give attention to these plants and they will continue to bloom until cool weather.

—Hank Smith



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The Mystery Of The Strange Wagon: Our Readers' Theories

The Mystery of the Strange Wagon, which we mentioned last month, has stirred a great deal of interest among our readers.

Several have written offering possible solutions.

The mystery involved the unusual wagon that was part of the painting, "Carolina Afternoon," which was on the magazine's cover in March. One of our readers had asked us how a team of mules could be hooked to the wagon and we couldn't find an explanation.

Three readers wrote to suggest that the wagon was pulled by oxen rather than mules or horses.

J. Leon Rumley of Winston-Salem wrote, "The type of wagon in question has a bed that can be removed and used for hauling logs. The attachment is a skid which just increases the capacity for carrying logs from the woods—at least that's what we used to do."

Here's the explanation that came from Shelby J. Hayes of Fayetteville: Before mules and horses were herded and brought in on rail cars to various parts of our country, another way was provided to aid farmers and landowners in transporting logs and hauling underbrush. Of course, the wagon could be used to carry other things. Up front the (oxen) heads were turned as needed for direction beneath the heavy yoke .... What's hard for me to understand is how a wagon this old could still be around."

Odell Whitley of Rt. 1, Oakboro, also supports the notion that oxen were used: "My guess is that wagon was remodeled for a pair of oxen. The yoke or beam rested on the top of the neck with a loop underneath. They'd pull by that and didn't need any harness."

Other readers described how horses or mules might have been used.

Wade H. Caudill of Rt. 1, Laurel Springs, said, "The animals are placed in the openings to either side of the center tongue of the apparatus."

This style of tongue, he said, made it easier to control the wagon and the animals, and made it easier for the animals to pull in unison—especially with heavy loads that needed to be stabilized.

"Some confusion arose about the method of hitch-up, but was soon answered. The hardware for hitching was not denoted on the painting. It also takes a special harness—one with a wide brisket, covering a wide portion of the work animal's chest."

Caudill said he's too young to remember any of this, but he'd learned about it from several senior citizens.

Weldon Hasty and his 70-year-old father, James, wrote from Midland, saying horses were hitched to the wagon in the following manner:

"They tied shaves (shafts) up and put over the horses. They fastened the trace chains to a 'double tree' (the bar placed across the work animal's chest). When they were through using the wagon, they would back horses and all into a shed, tie the shaves to the shed well above the horses. Then, they'd lead the horses to the stables. They would leave the shaves tied to the shed in a upward position to keep dry."

Johnnie Baker of Rt. 1, Belvidere, didn't comment on how the wagon was pulled but said it was a rail cart that was used "to haul rails to make rail fences." He added: "I am 74 years old and have lived on a farm all my life and I think I'm right in saying it is a rail cart."

Readers in Ashe and Rutherford Counties had other explanations.

Patsy B. Stewart of Rt. 1, Crumpler, said her 81-year-old father, James Bard of Jefferson, recalled having seen a wagon like this for the first time as a boy:

"He related to me how he, as a seven-year-old boy, went with his father in a wagon down the mountain to Statesville. They took two mules and some vegetables to trade. When they arrived at their destination and had traded the mules, my father noticed a wagon similar to the one in the picture.

"After he examined it, he asked his father how you could hitch horses to it. A farmer overheard and told Daddy it was pulled by human labor, presumably by slaves in an earlier time.

"Daddy was impressed with the wagon and remembered it in detail. He also recalled that the trip took four days to go down, but only three to come home—because Ol' Syb, the lead horse, was anxious to return home."

Mrs. Jim Shehan of Rt. 4, Rutherfordton, had seen this kind of wagon used with a tractor to haul hay and other items. In this application, she said, the wagon needed no shaft openings—"just a sturdy foundation for hitching to the tractor."

She added: "We had a wagon we used the same way with a tractor. Later we got a regular trailer but the four-wheel wagon served very well in its day."

—*Owen Bishop*

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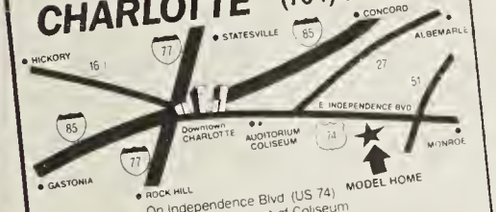

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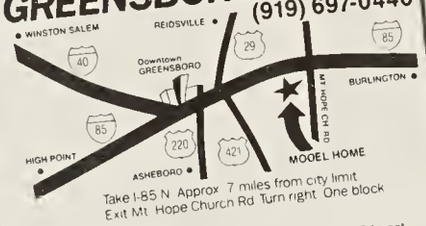

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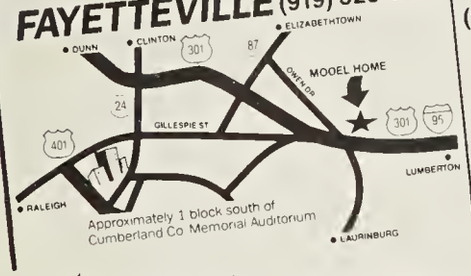

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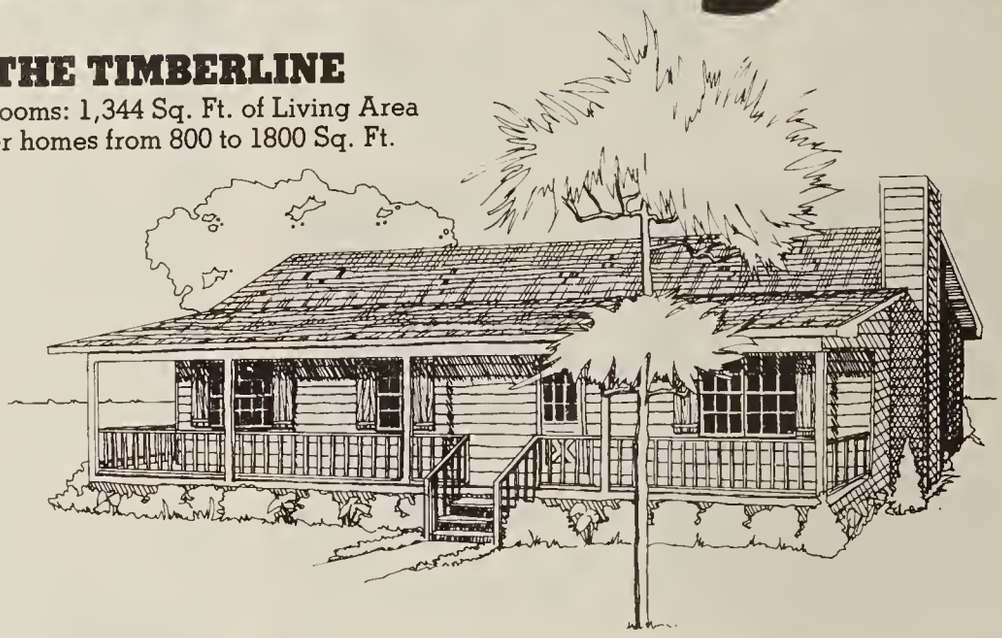

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